

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

August 21, 2007

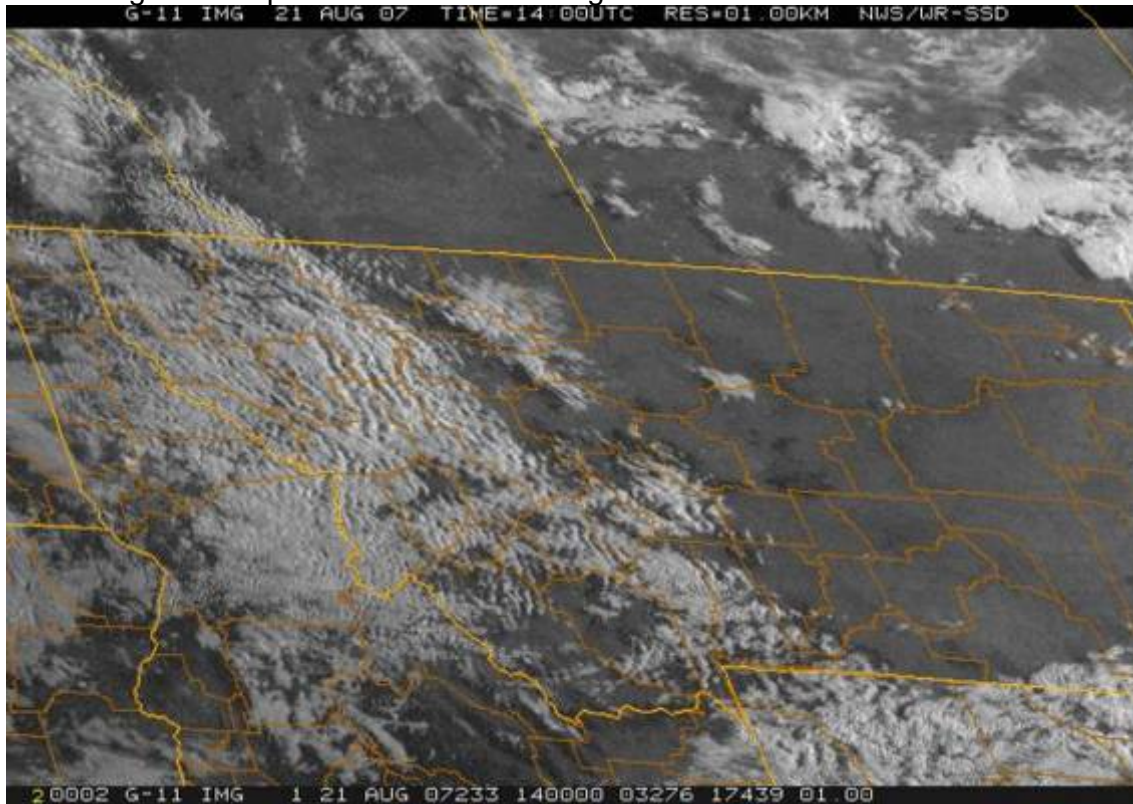
10:00 AM Tuesday

FORECAST:

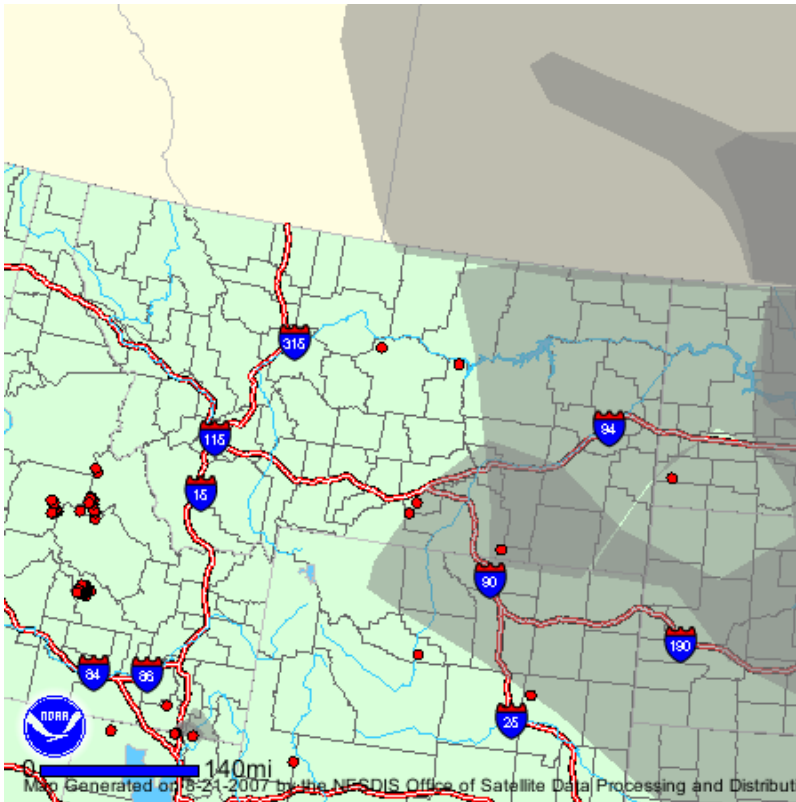
There are no reports of unhealthy levels of smoke this morning. Fresh air has replaced the stagnant smoky air mass that had been lingering over the state for so long. Some moderate smoke is reported in the Butte area and there are likely a few local smoke impacts immediately adjacent to the active fires but overall, clear blue sky is the rule across the state today.

Another day of good air is on tap this morning across the state. Fire activity levels are much lower and the amount of smoke being transported in Montana from Idaho is much less than the past couple of weeks. Westerly winds will bring some smoke overhead later in the day but no buildup of smoke is expected before tomorrow at least. Warmer, dryer weather starting Wednesday could start causing a problem again in that time period. Local smoke impacts from nearby plumes will still be an issue with brisk winds keeping some fires active. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

A morning satellite photo centered on Billings is illustrated below:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage).



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

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DISCUSSION:

All reporting stations are at [good](#) this morning with the exception of Butte which has been seeing some [moderate](#) levels of haze this morning from the fires to the west. The advisories in the table below represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day. Residents downwind of the active fires and experiencing impacts from residual smoke will need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the visibility guidelines to determine current conditions. Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local visibility to guide activity decisions as the situation changes.

[John Coefield](#)

Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

10 AM Update August 21, 2007 These advisories represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day.	
HAZARDOUS	
VERY UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	
MODERATE	Butte T8

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.